rally held from 19th to 25th June, 2000 at Ahmedabad are as under

(i) Total screened	4327
(ii) Rejected in physical fitness test, documentation and medical grounds	
(iii) Appeared in written Exam	4107
(iv) Total passed and selected	220
Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters held up by Britain	154

325. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. Government has held up the return of Sea Harriers and Sea King helicopters sent by the Ministry of Defence to U.K. for normal repairs;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this matter has been taken up with U.K. Government; and

(d) if so, what is their response?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) One Sea Harrier aircraft is, presently, under repair with M/s. British Aerospace, UK, which is likely to be completed by November, 2000. No Sea King helicopter is presently, under repair in UK. However, 169 critical components of Sea King helicopters which were sent to M/s. GKN WHL, UK for repairs have not yet been returned.

(b) After the imposition of US Sanctions in the wake of Pokharan II, the license of M/s. GKN WHL, UK was revoked by M/s. Sikorsky, USA under orders from US State Department. M/s GKN WHL, UK have suspended all Product Support Activities for Sea King helicopters in India.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with the Government of UK who have informed that US Government did not agree to relax sanctions for Sea King Helicopters. However, the U.K. Government have assured that they are pursuing the matter with the U.S. authorities in order to resolve the problem.

Supply of Rifles to Armed Forces

326. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: